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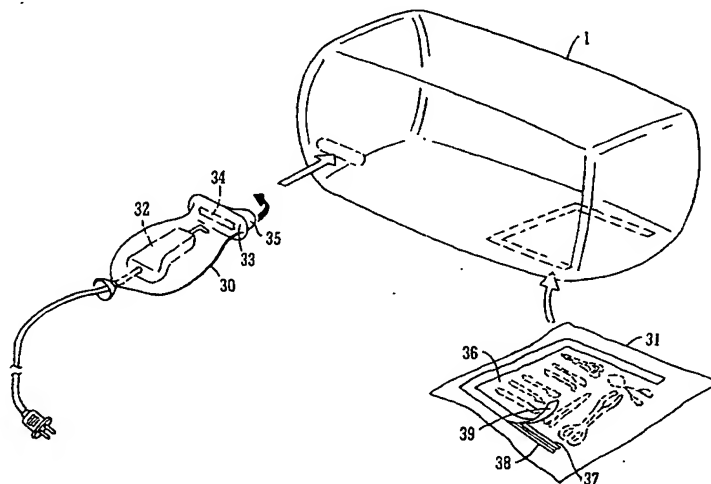
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.(54) Title: **STERILE ENVIRONMENTS**

(57) Abstract: An apparatus is disclosed comprising two or more sterile environments (1, 30, 31) each of which are at least partially enclosed by a wall member. A portion of the wall member of at least one of the environments (30, 31) has means (33, 38) for joining it to a portion of the wall member of another environment (1) and the wall members at or within the joined portions are capable of being opened to connect the sterile environments (1, 30, 31). At least a portion of one or more of the surfaces that form the joined portions is provided with a bactericidal substance to sterilise the join before it is opened. The joining means (33, 38) preferably comprises an adhesive in which the bactericidal substance may be impregnated. The sterile environments may be an operating enclosure, a window unit or a carrier containing surgical instruments, fluids, medicines, a glove, blood or saline.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A A A A	<p>US 4 275 719 A (MAYER NATHAN) 30 June 1981 (1981-06-30) column 3, line 62 -column 4, line 2; figure 3</p> <p>----</p> <p>NL 8 102 851 A (HANS RUDOLPH KRIEK) 3 January 1983 (1983-01-03) page 7, line 12 - line 16; figure 1</p> <p>----</p> <p>US 4 367 728 A (MUTKE HANS G) 11 January 1983 (1983-01-11) column 5, line 7 - line 20; figures 6,7</p> <p>----</p> <p>US 2 219 564 A (REYNIERS JAMES A) 29 October 1940 (1940-10-29) page 2, left-hand column, line 73 -right-hand column, line 4; figure 6</p> <p>----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/--</p>	<p>21, 24, 26, 27 1, 21-23, 25, 28-30</p> <p>1, 21-26, 29, 30</p> <p>1, 21-26, 29, 30</p> <p>1, 21-26, 29, 30</p>

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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			WO 9835614 A1	20-08-1998